

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 27, 28, 30-36, 38-49, 54 and 55 are currently pending. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 36, 38-49, and 54-55 have been allowed.

By this Amendment, claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 28, and claim 28 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-10, 27, 30-36, 38-49, 54 and 55 would be pending.

II. Objections to the Claims

Claim 28 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. This claim has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the objection moot.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 27 and 30-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,848,119 to Miyake.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 28. Accordingly, claims 28 and 30-35 are believed to be in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 4451-4001. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

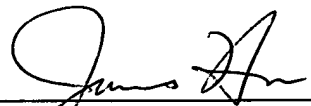
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 4451-4001. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 10, 2004

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